

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Review Item:

End-of-Course Assessment Pilot

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 158.860

History/Background:

Existing Policy. During the 2006 session of the Kentucky General Assembly, House Bill 197 was passed to establish a pilot program by the 2007-2008 school year in end-of-course testing for Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry. The legislation defines end-of-course examinations as a test that measures a student's knowledge and skills upon completion of a core content course.

The Kentucky Department of Education is charged in the legislation with coordination of the exams and to ensure that each exam:

1. Aligns with the standards, content, goals, and academic expectations relevant to the course;
2. Requires student demonstration of knowledge, comprehension, application, and higher order cognitive skills;
3. Provides reliable and valid test items;
4. Is available to schools in an on-line format if resources are available; and
5. Provides individual student scores; test item analyses; aggregate comparisons of student data at the school, district, and state levels; and disaggregated data by student subpopulations at the school district and state levels.

KDE is involved in two projects to provide a pilot in each of the courses required in legislation. Spring operational exams are planned for Algebra I, Algebra II and Geometry in May 2008. The exams include multiple-choice and open response items. Students will be eligible to participate if they have completed the courses.

Participating in these pilots presents an exciting opportunity to be in at the ground level for end-of-course testing in Kentucky's public schools. End-of-course testing enables schools to take an important step in ensuring that each course is providing a rigorous experience with strong expectations. Students will be able to judge how they performed on common assessment items based on standards for the Commonwealth.

A description of the two projects currently underway to provide these end-of-course opportunities is provided below.

Project I: Algebra II Multi-State Consortium

State educators from the K-12 community, as well as local colleges and universities, continue to be involved in defining both the content and test design of the American Diploma Project Algebra II End-of-Course Exam. Pearson is the test development contractor for this project. This is a multi-state partnership sponsored by Achieve, Inc. An initial field test was conducted in October 2007, with another planned for February 2008 and a pilot assessment in May 2008.

Project II: Algebra I and Geometry

KDE is working with the University of Louisville to develop end-of-course exams for Algebra I and Geometry. Kentucky teachers will work with the Center for Mathematics and Science to develop appropriate assessment items. Standards that are measured by these assessments are identified from Kentucky's Program of Studies and Core Content for Assessment. A pilot assessment will occur in May 2008.

Staff will provide a verbal update on these end-of-course projects at the April meeting.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

Holding schools accountable for progress is a key element in meeting proficiency by 2014. As we move closer to 2014, it becomes increasingly important for schools to offer rigorous courses to ensure Kentucky's students are proficient and prepared for success.

Contact Person:

Ken Draut, Associate Commissioner
Office of Assessment and Accountability
502-564-2256
ken.draut @education.ky.gov

Deputy Commissioner

Commissioner of Education

Date:

April 2008